TRENDS

ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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For Immediate Release

RAIL INTERMODAL SETS WEEKLY RECORD

WASHINGTON, September 10, 1992 -- Railroads originated more intermodal trailers and containers during the week ended September 5 than in any other week in history, the Association of American Railroads (AAR) reported today.

In all, railroads originated 143,163 trailers and containers last week, breaking the old record of 138,377 originated during the week ended October 5, 1991. Last week's total was also 29.2 percent ahead of the comparable week of 1991.

"What's significant here is that intermodal has been growing more rapidly than the economy throughout 1992," said Dr. Harvey A. Levine, vice president of the AAR's economics and finance department. "This indicates that more and more shippers are recognizing how much rail service has improved. This is important because growth through quality is the railroad industry's strategy for long-term growth."

Railroads also reported loading 342,882 carloads of freight during the week ended September 5, up 12.3 percent from the comparable 1991 week. Carloadings were up 11.8 percent in the East and 12.8 percent in the West. The AAR estimated total freight traffic at 21.8 billion ton-miles for the week, up 14.7 percent from the comparable 1991 week.

Dr. Levine noted that the Labor Day holiday was included in the 1991 week but is not included this year.

For the first 36 weeks of 1992, carloadings totaled 11,617,407, up 1.7 percent from the comparable 1991 period. Intermodal volume, which is not included in carloads, totaled 4,525,377 trailers and containers, up 8.1 percent from 1991. The AAR estimated total freight traffic for the first 36 weeks of 1992 at 730.4 billion ton-miles, up 3.3 percent from 1991.

Railroads reporting to the AAR account for 94 percent of rail carloadings and 97 percent of intermodal.

(more)

WEEKLY TRAFFIC OF MAJOR RAILROADS
FOR THE WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 5, 1992

CARLOADS ORIGINATED, BY COMMODITY GROUP					
		COMPARISON WITH			
COMMODITY	WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 5, 1992	SAME WEEK OF 1991	CHANGE	PRECEDING WEEK	CHANGE
Grain	27,702	24,449	13.3 %	26,749	3.6 %
Farm Products, Ex. Grain	1,629	838	94.4	1,192	36.7
Metallic Ores	19,718	18,298	7.8	19,372	1.8
Coal	127,227	119,075	6.8	130,732	-2.7
Crushed Stone, Sand & Gravel	17,097	12,697	34.7	15,198	12.5
Nonmetallic Minerals	8,825	8,342	5.8	8,875	-0.6
Grain Mill Products	10,598	9,598	10.4	10,214	3.8
Food & Kindred Products	8,958	7,719	16.1	9,093	-1.5
Primary Forest Products	9,247	8,040	15.0	9,076	1.9
Lumber & Wood Products	5,897	4,529	30.2	6,000	-1.7
Pulp, Paper & Allied Products	11,103	10,420	6.6	10,448	6.3
Chemicals	29,603	25,991	13.9	27,940	6.0
Petroleum Products	5,903	4,913	20.2	5,757	2.5
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	10,550	8,336	26.6	9,881	6.8
Coke	5,280	5,409	-2.4	5,521	-4.4
Metals & Products	9,422	9,387	0.4	9,672	-2.6
Motor Vehicles & Equipment	17,293	14,162	22.1	17,647	-2.0
Waste & Scrap Materials	8,772	6,715	30.6	8,538	2.7
All Other Carloads	8,058	6,380	26.3	7,906	1.9
Total	342,882	305,298	12.3 %	339,811	0.9 %

SUMMARY: CARLOADS ORIGINATED, INTERMODAL TRAFFIC AND ESTIMATED TON-MILES						
	WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 5, 1992			CUMULATIVE: 36 WEEKS ENDING SEPTEMBER 5, 1992		
TRAFFIC	1992	1991	CHANGE	1992	1991	CHANGE
Carloads Originated	342,882	305,298	12.3 %	11,617,407	11,427,970	1.7 %
Intermodal Traffic Originated						
Trailers	73,835	55,529	33.0	2,240,560	2,151,387	4.1
Containers	69,328	55,271	25.4	2,284,817	2,033,044	12.4
Total	143,163	110,800	29.2	4,525,377	4,184,431	8.1
Estimated Ton-Miles						
Class I Railroads (Billions)	21.8	19.0	14.7 %	730.4	706.9	3.3 %

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